

CAPSULE SUMMARY - COX/ENSMINGER BARN (CT-1039)

The Cox/Ensminger tobacco barn is located along Lower Marlboro Road near Sunderland and is representative of barns constructed in the early 19th century. Its size, plan, and construction techniques are all typical of barns of this period. It does, however, exhibit tow features which are associated with even older structures including a tilted false plate and some wrought nails. Tobacco was last cured in this privately owned barn over ten years ago, and the barn is presently used for storage. The owner stated that the existing house was built c. 1890 in replacement of an earlier one located to the southwest of the barn.

# Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory Form

Survey No. CT-1039

Magi No.

DOE ☐ yes ☐ no

## 1. Name (indicate preferred name)

historic

and/or common Cox/Ensminger

## 2. Location

street & number ~~Huntingtown Rd.~~ 525 Lower Marlboro Rd. (MD 262) not for publication

city, town Huntingtown vicinity of congressional district

state MD county Calvert

## 3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
	<input type="checkbox"/> not applicable	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: storage

## 4. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Mrs. Ensminger (maiden name Cox)

street & number 525 Lower Marlboro Rd. telephone no.: 301-257-6366

city, town Huntingtown state and zip code MD 20639

## 5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Calvert County Courthouse liber AWR 38

street & number Main Street (MD 765) folio 38

city, town Prince Frederick state MD

## 6. Representation in Existing Historical Surveys

title

date ☐ federal ☐ state ☐ county ☐ local

depository for survey records

DEPT. OF PLANNING & ZONING  
COURT HOUSE

city, town

PRINCE FREDERICK, MD. 20678

state

## 7. Description

Survey No. CT-1039

### Condition

☐ excellent  
☐ good  
☒ fair

☐ deteriorated  
☐ ruins  
☐ unexposed

### Check one

☐ unaltered  
☒ altered

### Check one

☒ original site  
☐ moved      date of move \_\_\_\_\_

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

The Ensminger/Cox tobacco barn is located on the north side of Lower Marlboro road, before Huntingtown Road, and approximately one-half mile from the intersection of Lower Marlboro Road with Highway 4. This barn was last used for tobacco approximately ten years ago, when it was rented to a sharecropper. The barn is oriented on an east-west axis, and an old farm road passes by the south facade. The barn measures forty by twenty-four feet, has a transverse axis plan, and sheds on the east and south sides. Nails are primarily fully mature machine-cut, although a few wrought heads are visible. The timbers are hewn and pit sawn. This barn is probably dates to the early nineteenth century, and has a standard plan combined with traditional building methods.

The forty foot length of the barn is divided into four ten foot wide bays. It contains ten rooms. The main entrance to the barn was probably through the south and west doors. There was also an original four foot wide door on the western facade. There was probably also a door along the southern facade, but the "doorposts" are sheathed so the pintel holes are not visible. There is a door along the eastern gable that has new hinges but may be in an old location. Both sheds are additions, but the south shed was added first.

Wooden blocks are laid randomly under the sills. These blocks and the sill they support have sunk into the ground. Continuous hewn sills almost one foot wide support the heavy timber frame. The sill has been chopped for the entry of vehicles through the north door. Posts are all original, large hewn timbers held by mortise and tenon joints with trunnels. The hewn down braces are joined to the sill by a half dovetail notch. The cross sill is a large hewn timber. It has been notched and laid on top of the sill. Part of it is a replacement on the north side. Both hewn and pit-sawn nailing rails are extant. Mostly fully mature machine cut nails are visible, although a few wrought heads are also apparent. The top plate is also a large hewn timber. Stud mortises occur on two foot centers along the entire top plate and sill of the barn except where it has been replaced.

The barn has vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation. Shingles originally covered the roof, and are still in place underneath the metal roofing that now covers all of the barn and the sheds. The roof rafters are on four foot centers that rest on a tilted false plate. Windbraces are on each diagonal, and four collars are used. Tier poles are stripped logs separated by three feet six inches vertical distance. Poles down the center are stripped logs which have been notched and had pegs inserted in them in order to support the tiers. Hogsheads in excellent condition are still on the prize, and there are tobacco baskets and an early sleigh all stored in the barn.

## 8. Significance

Survey No.

CT-1039

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> ? 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

**Specific dates****Builder/Architect**check: Applicable Criteria: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D  
and/orApplicable Exception: ☐ A ☐ B ☐ C ☐ D ☐ E ☐ F ☐ GLevel of Significance: ☐ national ☐ state ☐ local

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

This barn is architecturally significant for several reasons. It dates to an early time period, when nails with wrought heads were used. Also indicative of an early barn is the existence of a tilted false plate. Its measurements of forty by twenty-four group are the most frequent size for barns of the early-mid nineteenth century.

This barn also yields information regarding agricultural history in Southern Maryland. In February 1990, a tobacco barn survey was initiated in order to study the tobacco barns of Calvert County. Until fairly recently, tobacco was the most important farm crop of the county. More acreage was devoted to its cultivation than for both of the next most extensive farm products (corn and wheat). The barns and stripping houses related to this "Tobacco Culture" are widely recognized as the most common element on the rural landscape. These structures are also the most threatened, as the market for tobacco declines. They seem to have, at present, only limited capabilities for re-use. Many barns and stripping houses now stand empty. The purpose of this survey has been to gather information and document a wide sample of these structures before they disappear from the landscape.

Historic Period/theme(s): 1815-Present, Tobacco, Agriculture  
Geographic Organization: Western Shore Chesapeake Bay Calvert Cty MD  
Chronological/Developmental Period: 1815?- Present  
Resource Type(s): Tobacco Barn

The land has been in Mrs. Ensminger's family (Cox) for at least the last 100 years. According to Mrs. Ensminger, the main house that is to the east of the barn was built ca. 1890. The tobacco barn was there when the land was purchased, and was associated with a now demolished house which was to the southwest of the current barn location. An old farm road the would have led to the early house passes by the southern facade of the barn.



## ENSMINGER/COX BARN

## 7. DESCRIPTION (CONT.)

The South Shed

The south shed has vertical wall siding, and there is no evidence of horizontal siding ever in place on the south shed. Shingle nailers are in place underneath the metal roof. There is a hewn sill on the ground on all three sides of the south shed. Both circular sawn and hand-hewn timbers occur in the south shed, and the nails are fully mature machine-cut. There is much re-use of timbers. Lap joints are visible on the southeast corner post of the barn, and the upper tier poles and tie beam on the southeast side show evidence of siding.

The East Shed

The east shed is a later addition. It has vertical wall siding with minimal ventilation, the original wooden shingle roof that is now covered with metal roofing is visible. Large unmortared field stones that have largely sunk into the ground supported the structure. Timbers are combination of both hewn and circular sawn. Cut nails are in place in the down braces. There is an enclosed stripping area with windows in the southern half of this shed. Access is gained to the stripping room through the east shed.

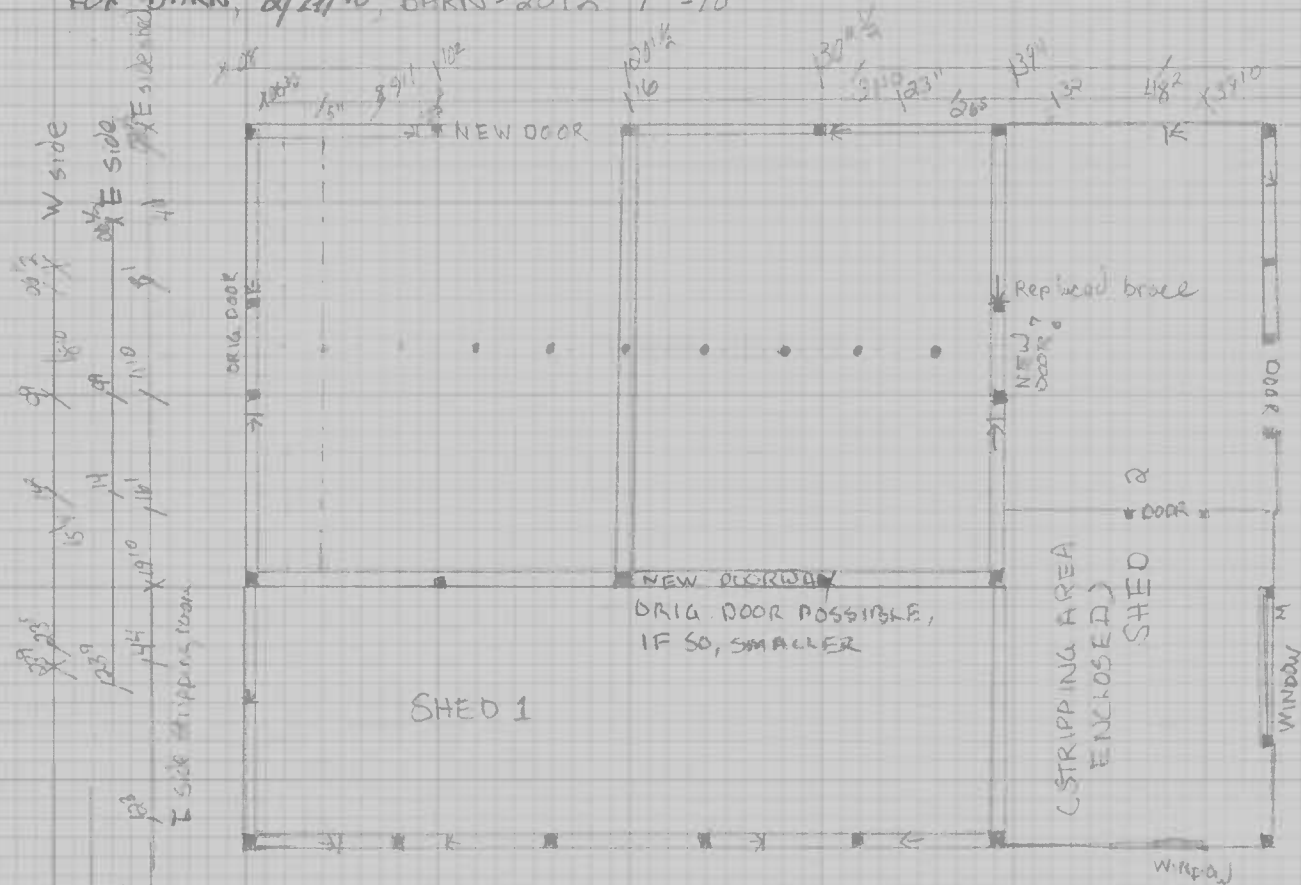
## ENSMINGER/COX BARN

## 8. SIGNIFICANCE (CONT.)

Nails along the southern rafters of the barn indicate that the south shed is an addition. The lap joints and evidence for siding along the east wall of the south shed indicate that the south shed must have been added prior to the addition of the east shed. The east shed was added at a later date. Both shed additions date to the period from 1860-1880 when circular sawn lumber was available but cut nails were used. The original horizontal siding on the barn was replaced by vertical siding prior to the change to wire nails.

The barn underwent other changes besides the addition of sheds. The siding changed from horizontal to vertical. There is some old vertical siding on the west side of the barn with fully mature machine cut nails attaching it. The shingle roof on the barn and the two sheds was replaced by a metal roof. The stripping room was added after wire nails became common.

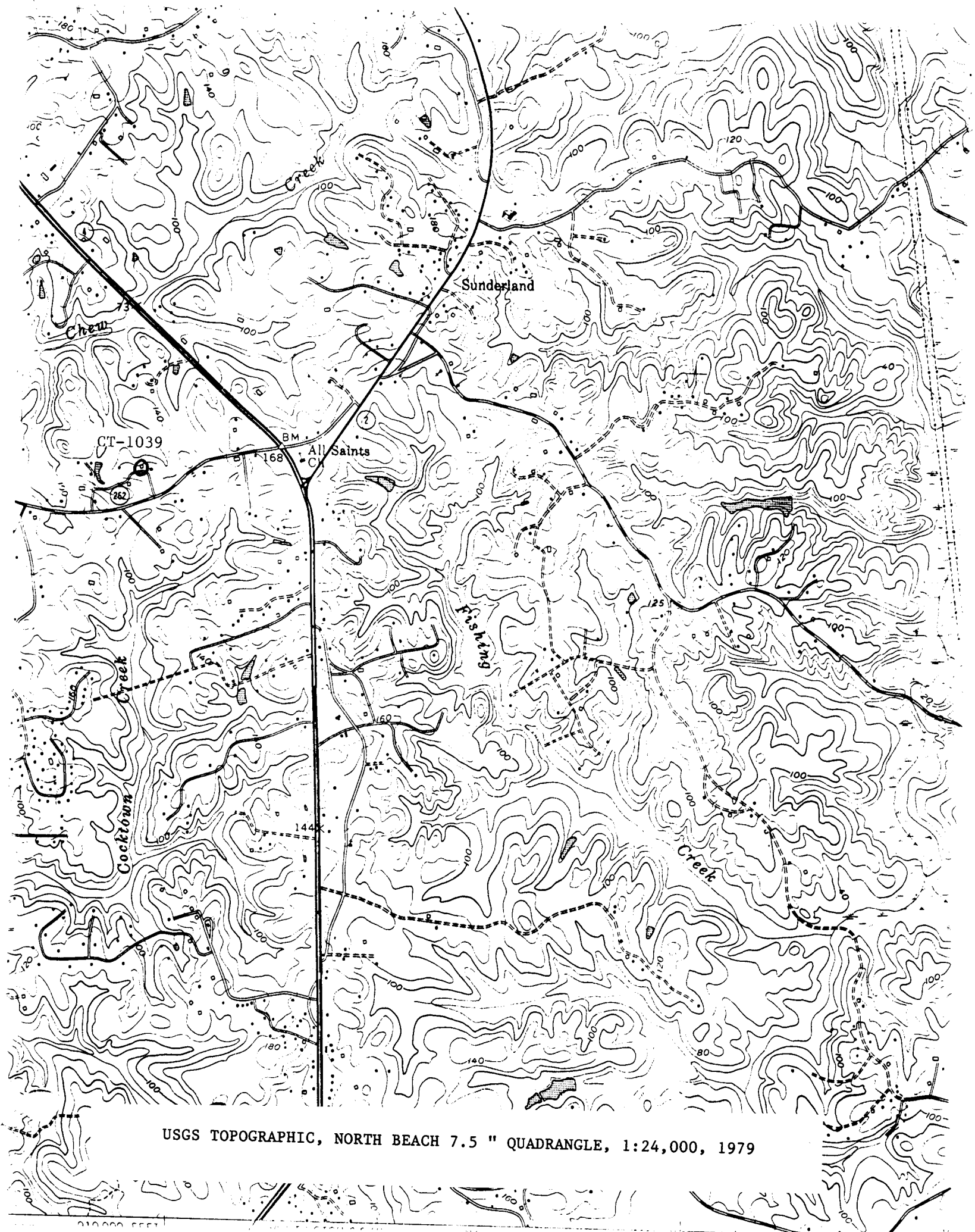
COX BARN, 2/27/90, BARN #2012 1"=10'



X 74. Door 35 X N side of study room

35, 40, 45, 50, 55, 60, 65, 70, 75, 80, 85, 90, 95, 100





USGS TOPOGRAPHIC, NORTH BEACH 7.5 " QUADRANGLE, 1:24,000, 1979



CT-1039 Cox/Enslinger

Huntstown

Todd L. Williamson

Southeast

February 1990